

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

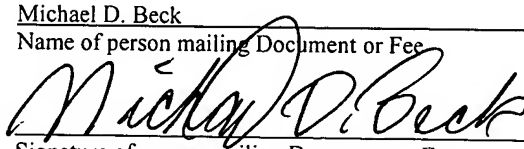
In re application of: Johnson et al.) Examiner: Richard R. Shaffer
Application No.: 10/624,066) Art Unit: 3733
Filed: July 21, 2003)
TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE) Confirmation No. 5163
)
) May 18, 2006

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider the following amendment and arguments in response to the Advisory Action dated June 5, 2006. This response is being filed within two months of this mailing date (which expires on August 4, 2006). It is believed that no extensions of time or associated fees are due; however, in the event that an extension is required, the Commissioner is requested to provide such extension and is authorized to deduct the necessary fees from Deposit Account 13-0014.

<u>Certificate of Mailing</u>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	
on <u>June 13, 2006</u>	_____
(Date of Deposit)	
<u>Michael D. Beck</u>	_____
Name of person mailing Document or Fee	
	_____
Signature of person mailing Document or Fee	
<u>June 13, 2006</u>	_____
Date of Signature	